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History of
African Methodist Episcopal
Zion Churches
in the Lincolnton District
of the Western North Carolina
Conference



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Prepared by the
Lincolnton District Laymans Council
1982

ADVENT - PURPLE November 30 - December 24

First Sunday in Advent
Christmas Eve

November 30
December 24

CHRISTMAS TIDE - WHITE December 25 - January 4

Christmas Day
Near Year's Day

December 25
January 1

EPIHANY - GREEN January 4 - March 2

Epiphany
Universal Week of Prayer
Martin Luther King Birthday
Human Relations Day
Race Relations Sunday
Joseph Charlee Price's Birthday
Lincoln's Birthday
Frederick Douglas' Birthday
Brotherhood Week

January 4
January 5-10
January 15
January 25
February 8
February 10
February 12
February 15
February 15-21

LENT - PURPLE March 3 - April 17

Ash Wednesday
World Day of Prayer
Girl Scout Sunday
Girl Scout Birthday
Holy Week
Palm Sunday
Maunday Thursday
Good Friday (Black)
Easter Eve

March 3
March 5
March 7
March 12
April 11-17
April 11
April 15
April 16
April 17

EASTER TIDE - WHITE April 17 - May 27

Easter Sunday
Christian College Day
National Family Week
Mother's Day
Ascension Day
Ascension Sunday
Memorial Day
Bishop J.W. Hood's Birthday

April 18
April 25
May 3 - 9
May 9
May 27
May 30
May 30
May 30

TRINITY SEASON - GREEN June 7 - November 27

Trinity Sunday (White)
Father's Day
Children's Day
Independence Day
Labor Day - Monday
Foreign Missions Day AME Zion Church
World Communion Day
United Nations Day
Reformation Sunday
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day

June 13
June 20
June 27
July 4
September 6
September 26
October 3
October 24
October 31
November 11
November 25

PENTECOST - RED May 31 - June 6

Pentecost Sunday - June 6

ECCLESIASTICAL COLORS

Suggested use of colors for the various seasons.

VIOLET OR PURPLE - Advent and Lenten Seasons. Emblem of Penitence, mourning, watching.

WHITE OR WHITE GOLD - Christmas Eve - the first Sunday after Epiphany, Transfiguration Sunday, Eastertide, Trinity Sunday. Emblem of purity, chastity, light, rejoicing.

BLACK - Only on Good Friday. Signifies mourning.

GREEN - Trinity Season, except on Sunday when white is used. Symbol of life, growth, hope, peace.

RED - Pentecost Sunday and Thanksgiving Day. Symbol represents blood and fire.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ADVENT - John 1:14

CHRISTMAS - Galations 4:4

EPIPHANY - Matthew 2:2, John 3:16

LENT - John 1:29 / Revelation 7:17

HOLY WEEK - Matthew 21:8, 26:26, Luke 23:23

EASTER - 1 Corinthians 15:17 / Romans 6:4

ASCENSION - John 18:33, 36 / Matthew 28:18, 19

PENTECOST - Issiah 11:2, 3 / Acts 2:1, 4

TRINITY - Matthew 3:16, 17

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH" / Psalm.

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." - Psalm 119-105

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LINCOLNTON DISTRICT Western N.C. Conference A.M.E. Zion Church

Dr. Frank R. Brown, Director of Christian Education
Reverend S.I. Clement, Presiding Elder
The Right Reverend W.M. Smith, Bishop

**LINCOLNTON DISTRICT
LAYMAN'S COUNCIL
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**HISTORY OF THE
LINCOLNTON DISTRICT CHURCHES
& LAY COUNCIL**

THEME: "SO SEND I YOU"

**PRESIDING PRELATE - FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
BISHOP: WILLIAM MILTON SMITH, D.D.
MRS. IDA M. SMITH, MISSIONARY SUPERVISOR
REV. S.I. CLEMENT - PRESIDING ELDER
WILLIAM ORR - DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

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Greetings From The President



WILLIAM ORR

My Fellow Zionites,

A slave by the name of Peter Williams approached the officers of John Street Church requesting them to purchase his freedom. Peter Williams played a major role in the AME Zion Church. He could not write his name, he signed the Articles of Agreement with an X.

After the Zion Church was built, membership started to increase. James Varick was the founder and first Bishop of the AME Zion Church, in 1800. Peter Williams was a Layman. These two men began a movement for freedom, freedom to worship as they wished! The fight for freedom still goes on. After the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, we were not free, not even after the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to abolish slavery, in 1865, or the Supreme Court's decision in 1954, the March on Washington or the enactment of the Civil Rights Voting Act of 1965. We have not achieved true freedom! But inspite of all the problems and troubles for freedom, the storm is passing over, because we have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.

We have come a long way, religiously, economically, educationally, and politically. We have come from the brush arbors, to modern sanctuaries, we have come from share croppers to farms and factories, from consumers to companies and corporations, from one room shanties to split-level houses. We have moved from the lower class to the middle class; from flour sack dresses to imported silks. We have moved upstairs, but our mode of conduct is still in the basement.

Dr. Victor Tulane and Dr. Aruthur E. Brooks, first and second presidents of the Lay movement, fought for Lay representation and even today many of our churches do not have Lay representation. They are not involved! They have moved upstairs, but I beg them to join us totally! Let us have Lay members dedicated like Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, Great Zionites!

With all of this, the Black Church must win souls for Christ, we must practice brotherhood, and build bridges of understanding and goodwill among the human race. We must keep in our Churches at all times, the Bread of Faith, the Bread of Love, because many people have lost faith, they have no hope, they have no love for one another!

It is time for the Church to be about the Master's business of eradicating sin, poverty, ignorance, crime, immorality, illegitimate births, alcholism, drug addiction, abortions, divorces, corruption in prisons and our government, juvenile delinquency, poor housing, health and educational facilities. The Master's business of preaching, teaching and healing must never be postponed or neglected! It demands daily commitment and carrying the Cross through Christian witnessing and service.

We are at the brink of Spiritual apathy in America, because we are derelict in our moral duties and responsibilites.

My fellow Zionites, we leave with you a history of our Churches in the Lincolnton District, that will never be forgotten. We hope, that in years to come, you will add to this your own history. We must never forget our heritage!!

Remember our objects and purposes: Sec. 1. The object and purpose of this organization shall be to organize the laymen of the A.M.E. Zion Church in each Episcopal Area, Annual and District Conference and local church in the connection to the end that the following objectives may be achieved: 1) Deepen the spiritual life of the laity. 2) Disseminate information. 3) Cultivate the denominational loyalty. 4) Expand the denomination through education and evangelism. 5) Promote any other interest of the Kingdom of God.

My sincere thanks to the Special Project Committee and to the pastors, laymen and our many friends and businesses for all your kindnessess and help! Again Thank You!

WILLIAM ORR



JOHN SADLER
Special Project Chairman

WILLIAM HAGER
Vice Chairman



BISHOP WILLIAM MILTON SMITH

Chairman: Church Extension Board
 Board of Trustees: Livingstone College
 National Chairman of Centennial Campaign Livingstone College and Hood Seminary
 Vice-Chairman: Publishing House Lay Activities
 Board of Directors: Commonwealth National Bank, National Board of NAACP, Mobile United, United Fund of Mobile County, America's Junior Miss Pageant, Inc., Government Board National Council of Churches of Christ in America, Executive Board of World Methodist Council, Dearborn Street YMCA, Mayor's Commission on Progress-Mobile, Steering Committee of NAACP
 Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
 President of North American Section World Methodist Council
 Chairman of Ecumenical Commission, World Methodist Council

BISHOP & MRS. SMITH

The Churches on the Lincolnton District are highly visible in the Western North Carolina Conference, as well as in the communities in which they serve.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to declare the presence of God everywhere. Jesus made us aware that no situation was deemed off limits to the sacred presence of Almighty God.

You, good lay people are in keeping with His Holy Spirit. I commend your very fine president and the great lay people of the Church for your undertaking of this task, to put in the hands of the people a historical journal such as this, that we all may know the Church better.

The Church is the witness to the fact that the Son of God came to seek and to save the lost. The Church will continue to do so as you good people continue to be the "salt of the earth", and let your light shine!

Mrs. Smith and the family join with me in saying, "you have done a good work, don't stop now". May you be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

MRS. IDA M. SMITH



ELDER S.I. CLEMENT

My early ministry as a local Preacher, began at Third Street A.M.E. Zion Church in Cleveland, N.C. and lasted for six years. I was a pastor for thirty-six years in the Western North Carolina Conference and Presiding Elder for fifteen years. Altogether, I have had fifty-seven years of experience in the Western North Carolina Conference. I would like to offer my congratulations to the Lincolnton District Lay Council for ten years of outstanding service in educating our people in church history and church policy.

May God be praised with thanksgiving and all my blessings.

PRESIDING ELDER,
LINCOLNTON DISTRICT,
REV. S.I. CLEMENT



REV. S.I. CLEMENT



MRS. S.I. CLEMENT



**THE REV. S.T. COOKE, RETIRED CHURCH BUILDER,
PASTOR, BARBER, AND TEACHER.**

The Rev. S.T. Cooke has been described as the biggest, little minister in the Western North Carolina Conference. The son of the late Haywood Cooke and Katie Harris Cooke, he is presently married to the former Marion Taylor, of Oxford, North Carolina. They raised two daughters, the late Mrs. Katye C. Carthen and Mrs. Helen E. Thombs, who is married to Everette B. Thombs, M.D. of Kings Mountain, N.C. There are two grandchildren, Everette B. Thombs, Jr. and Claire E. Thombs.

Rev. Cooke retired from pastoring in 1980 after 57 years of service to the Central and Western North Carolina Conferences. Rev. Cooke is still active in the ministry. He is a member of the New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church where he serves in whatever capacity he is called upon. Rev. Cooke served for two-four year terms as pastor of the New Bynum's Chapel Church during 1941 through 1945 and 1976 through 1980.

Rev. and Mrs. Cooke reside in Kings Mountain, N.C., at 102 City Street.



MINISTERS

Left to Right - 1st Row

REVS. WALTER ADAMS, M.L. CAMPBELL, S.T. COOKE, S.I. CLEMENT

Left to Right - 2nd Row

REVS. R.L. HOYLE, NEIL BELL, VICTOR CARSON, LARRY CROSSLAND

Left to Right - 3rd Row

REVS. FRANK DAVIS, H.L. HALL, J.W. HOLMES



P.B. KILGORE, NANCY BROWN,
J.T. ROSS, THOMAS JACKONS, S.I. CLEMENT
R.L. PERRY, F.W. DAVIS, JOHN COULTER

MINISTERS



DR. C. DuPONT RIPPY
First Vice-President
Connectional Lay Council
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

It is my pleasure as First Vice-President of the Connectional Lay Council to commend the Lincolnton District Lay Council on the excellent work it is doing under the leadership of Mr. William Orr and his fine Staff of Officers. Mrs. Bettye V. Stith, our President, joins me in this commendation. The record will reveal that the Lincolnton District is second to none in Zion! It is my prayer that you will not falter and that you will continue to say through your works, "Come With Us To Christ."



DR. MALACHI L. GREENE

Dr. M.L. Greene is an active member of Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, where he serves on the Trustee Board, as a Sunday School Teacher, and an Arch Leader. He is the President of the Charlotte District Lay Council and Vice President of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council. Dr. Greene also serves as Regional Lay Director for the Second Episcopal Area of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Dr. Greene is active in many civic organizations. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Charlotte, North Carolina. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Clinton Junior College, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

In addition to his church and civic responsibilities, he is owner and principal officer of Greene Brothers Flooring.

Dr. Greene is married to Mattie Macon Greene and they have two sons.

He sends his sincerest congratulations to the Lincolnton District Layman's Council on their 10th Anniversary Celebration.



**ALBERT S. STOUT, SR.
PRESIDENT - WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
LAY COUNCIL**

There are few conferences in the AME Zion connection that will have a district with as many enthusiastic workers among the Lay people as the Lincolnton District. Just to know the sainted leader of the district, Presiding Elder Clement, will tell you why this dedication is on this district. The Rev. S.I. Clement is a leader any Christian can follow.

The following persons are dedicated servants in their district and in the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council. Mr. William Orr, District Lay Council President, is a naturally-born leader who is determined to teach the church its history and to reach the objects of the Lay Council. Mrs. Lillian Williams, 2nd Vice-President of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council, is competent, dependable and a good leader. Mrs. Margaret Meeks, Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council treasurer, is faithful, trustworthy and reliant. Mrs. Geneva Holland, a staunch supporter and a motivator, stands behind all of these faithful workers to help the district and the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council to move forward.

Our heartfelt appreciation and congratulations are extended to Brother Orr and the District Lay Council for this great venture in disseminating information about the Lincolnton District.

Yours In Christian Service,

ALBERT S. STOUT, SR.
President - Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council

MRS. LILLIAN WILLIAMS

Is a member of St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church, Gastonia, N.C. She also serves as a member of the Camp Dorthy Wall Fund Workers. She is past chairperson of the District Program Committee. She serves on the Connectional Council Committee Lay Persons in Spotlight. She is 2nd Vice President of the Western North Carolina Lay Council.



MRS. GENEVA E. HOLLAND

Mrs. Holland is a member of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church. She serves as Director of Children in Christian Education. She is a member of the District Board of Ushers. She has served as Assistant Secretary of the Western North Carolina Lay Council. She served as First Vice President of the District Lay Council also chairperson of the Membership Committee.



MRS. MARGARET MEEKS

Mrs. Meeks is a member of Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

She has served as Treasurer of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council for fifteen years.

This year she will also serve as Membership Chairman of the Lincolnton District Lay Council.

She has also served as District President of the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary. Mrs. Meeks is indeed a dedicated and loyal Zionite.

THE HISTORY OF THE LINCOLNTON DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL

The Lay Council of the Lincolnton District was reorganized on the second Sunday in September, 1972 at New Bynum Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Kings Mountain, N.C., Rev. R.O. Davis was acting chairman.

Mr. William Orr was appointed President, and is still serving as such after ten years. Our first officers were, Mr. Clyde Adams, first vice president, Mrs. Loulean London and Alice Johnson, secretaries, Mr. William Edwards, treasurer, Mr. Grady Galloway, Chaplin, Mrs. Lillie Gibson, Mrs. Rebecca Dunlap, and Mrs. Ollie King, Program Chairpersons, and Mrs. Lucille Hunter, Social Committee, Mrs. Golie Diggs served as chairman of Sick Committee. Our oldest and still active members are Mrs. Inez King and Mr. Earl A. Floyd. Total membership for that first year was 28. The central meeting places were St. Peters A.M.E. Zion Church in Gastonia, and New Bynum's Chapel.

The Lincolnton District officially joined the Western North Carolina Conference and the Connectional Lay Council in 1973. Our first report to an Annual Conference was done at East Stonewall A.M.E. Zion Church. Our first delegate to attend a Connectional meeting was Mrs. Lillie J. Gibson. She attended the Connectional meeting held in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1975 the Council began meeting at Churches across the District. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month, and consist of workshops, with the exception of the December meeting, when we have our Annual Fellowship Dinner.

In 1975 membership had reached 85, in 1976 membership was up to 121, by 1978 we had 175 members. In 1980 we had the largest membership in the A.M.E. Zion Church with 212 members. In 1981, we placed second in Norfolk, Virginia, we had 278 members.

The first General Lay Convention was held in Charlotte, N.C., at this meeting we had twelve members to attend. We chartered a bus to the second General Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. We had four members to attend the fourth General Evangelistic Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee. We have had good attendance at all the Regional meetings that were held in Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina and Norfolk, Virginia.

Under the leadership of Rev. John Holmes and District President, Mr. William Orr, the first Youth Lay Council was organized at New Bynum's Chapel with 18 members.

Connectional Lay Day is always observed on the district, some of our guest speakers have been, Dr. C. Dupont Rippey, 1st Vice President of the Connectional Lay Council, Dr. M.L. Greene, Region II Director, Connectional Lay Council, and Mr. Albert Stout, Western North Carolina Conference Lay Council President. We also host the W.N.C. Conference meetings at certain times of the year. These meetings have been held at, New Bynum's Chapel, St. Stephens, St. Peters, Pleasant Ridge, Neelys Grove, Wardell Chapel, and Vestibule.

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, the President organized a Special Projects Committee to publish a "Book Of History" of the twenty-five churches on the district. Also, a day of workshops will be held on Saturday, October 16, 1982 at St. Stephens. Grand Lay Day Services will be held at New Bynum's Chapel on Connectional Lay Day, October 17, 1982

We take this time to offer our sincere appreciation to Presiding Elder S.I. Clement, and the Ministers of the Lincolnton District, who have given us 100% support and co-operation.

The District's next project will be to publish a District newspaper on a quarterly basis.

SPECIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

Mr. John Sadler, Chairman
Mr. William Hager, Vice Chairman
Mr. William Manning, Treasurer
Mrs. Mildred Huitt, Secretary
Mrs. Willie Mae Aiken, Financial Secretary
Mr. Alfred Graves
Mr. M.L. Bess

SPECIAL EVENTS

OCTOBER

LAY DAY

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

DECEMBER

CHIRSTMAS DINNER

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ENDS

TRINITY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH LAY COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: MS. SARA E. HOLLAND

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: MR. AUTHERWAY FLOYD

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: MR. ALEXANDER NEELY

SECRETARY: MS. HELEN FLOYD

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: MRS. FLOREE ARMSTRONG

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: MISS LINDA FAYE STARNES

TREASURER: MS. GENEVA E. HOLLAND

PASTOR: REV. FRANK W. DAVIS, JR.

MEMBERSHIP: 60



TRINITY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Left to Right - 1st Row

MS. SARA E. HOLLAND, MS. BRANDY MITCHEM, MS. VERGIE MITCHEM, MS. LINDA F. STARNES, MS. LESLIE STARNES.

Left to Right - 2nd Row

MR. E.A. FLOYD, MR. ALEXANDER NEELY, MRS. ROSLYN BROWN.

Left to Right - 3rd Row

MRS. DULCENA FLOYD, MS. CARLA BROWN, MS. LISA BROWN.

Left to Right - 4th Row

REV. FRANK W. DAVIS, MRS. FLOREE ARMSTRONG, MS. GENEVA HOLLAND, MR. AUTERWAY FLOYD.

LOCAL PRESIDENTS

SARA HOLLAND, WILLIAM MANNING, LILLIAN FLOYD, ROBERT HAMILTON,
SAMUEL BERRY, CLEOTUS HENCE, PHILLIP HAGER, JOHN SADLER, GRADY
GALLOWAY.



LAYMAN'S COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICE

WILLIAM ORR, President - MS. GENEVA HOLLAND, First Vice President
MRS. ESSIE CRAWFORD, Secretary - MS. SARA HOLLAND, Treasurer
L.F. STARNES, Coop Secretary

MR. GRADY GALLOWAY, Chaplain - MRS. PATRICIA PALMER, Financial Secretary
MR. PHILLIP HAGER, Parliamentarian - MR. WILLIAM HAGER, Second Vice President





NEW BYNUM CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH LAYMAN COUNCIL

REV. & MRS. VICTOR CARSON

ALL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT.

MEMBERS NOT PICTURED.

Angela Hickman
Mr. Genrlette Orr
Mrs. Ethel Mitchum
Mr. Luico Wilson
Mrs. Genell Crank
Miss Cuba Reid
Mr. Frank Buriss
Jerry Mitchem
Eric Sanders
Mary Burris

Mr. William Hager
Mr. Benjamin Brown
Rev. S.T. Cooke
Mrs. Luico Wilson
Mr. Carl Bennix
Miss Brenda Aldrich
Hazeline Adams
Ethel Mitchem
Zinne Sanders
Everetta Burris

Mrs. Ina Hager
Mrs. Margaret Meeks
Mrs. S.T. Cooke
Mr. Mose Russell
Mrs. Lucille Hunter
Mrs. Albertha Hunter
Sandra Aldrich
John Leach
Clifford Shanks
Craig Brown

Mr. Paul Brown

Mr. William Orr
Mr. Douglas Sutton
Mr. James Adams
Sharon Adams
Emma Blalock
Jacquelyn Jenkins
Mae Hester Davis
Mrs. Andrew Brown

MRS. BETTY JORDON
Chairperson: Sick and Condolense Committee



MRS. PATRICIA PALMER
Financial Secretary



SPECIAL PROJECTS FINANCE COMMITTEE

1st Row - WILLIAM ORR.

2nd Row - WILLIE M. AIKEN, MILDRED HUIETT, WILLIAM MANNING, Treasurer,
M.L. BESS.

3rd Row - ALFRED GROVES.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Front Row - MRS. NELLIE M. JACKSON, Chairman - MRS. ROSLYN A. BROWN, Co-Chairman - MRS. INEZ KING, MRS. MARGARET B. LOVE.

Back Row - Left to Right: MISS CARLA V. BROWN, MISS ALYCE BROWN, MISS LESLIE STARNES, MRS. OLA MAE LOVE.

Not Shown: MRS. LUCILLE HUNTER, MRS. LOUISE WALKER.





MRS. EDNA GRAVES
Chairperson of the Program Committee
Conference Year 1981-82



MRS. McDOWELL
Program Chairperson Conference Year 1982-83

**CONTRATULATIONS LAYMENS LINCOLNTON
DISTRICT BOARD OF USHERS -
SENIOR AND JUNIOR**

MR. OTIS DYE - President
MRS. ILA M. WILSON - Vice President
Recording Secretary - MRS. WILLIE M. NEELEY
Assistance Secretary - MRS. ESSIE CRAWFORD
Correspondence Secretary - MRS. BERTHA McCLEAVES
Treasurer - MISS SARA E. HOLLAND
Program Chairperson - MRS. ANNIE DYE
By-Laws Chairperson - MISS GENEVA E. HOLLAND
Social Committee Chairperson - MRS. NELLIE RUDISELL
Chaplins - MR. GRADY GALLOWAY / MR. CLYDE ADAMS
Steward — MR. FRED BLANTON
President of Jr. Ushers - MRS. BRENDA BROWN



GREATER MOORE'S CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The restrictions of slavery in Lincoln County limited the growth of Zion Methodism, so after the Civil War there was a rush to convert hundreds of newly freed slaves to the denomination. Bishop Thomas H. Lomax had already organized several churches in Western North Carolina, but the N.C. Conference felt that Lincoln County was fertile ground and needed special religious cultivation. Bishop Lomax called the Bishop John Jamison Moore from his teaching and preaching mission in California.

Since 1863 there had been a church of free Black men who met in a small house in a grove 1¼ miles from the eastern town limit. The church was not affiliated with any denomination. Around 1865, there was such an influx of ex-slaves to the tiny church that the congregation was forced to move outside under the trees. By 1869, a rather large church for this area in those days, had been built. The church was named for Rev. Francis Moore in 1870. He convinced the church to join the A.M.E. Zion Church in North Carolina and the Lincolnton Zion Church of Lincoln County was born. Bishop Moore served as pastor of the church.

In 1879 Bishop Hood brought the Western North Carolina Conference to Lincolnton for its annual convention. It was at this conference that Livingstone College got its beginning.

On January 5, 1890 a school opened on the second floor of Moore's Chapel. It was called Moore's Seminary. In 1898 the church was rebuilt, again rebuilt in 1941. The church is now called Greater Moore's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Lincolnton District of the Western North Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church was organized from Moore's Chapel.

Greater Moore's Chapel is presently pastored by Rev. J.D. Gladden.



ST. STEPHENS A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

In the year of our Lord 1860, St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion Church was founded under the leadership of the late Rev. B.F. Martin. A temporary house in the shape of an arbor, which served both as a church and a school, also organized by Rev. Martin was built on the spot where this church stands today.

Rev. Martin served as pastor and teacher for several years until the town school board saw the need of a larger and better place to house the growing boys and girls seeking an education and a better way of life; thus, the Highland Elementary School was built and given to them.

The pastor and his increasing membership purchased the land for the church from the late S. Head in the year of our Lord 1885, for the sum of \$43.00.

The first trustees in the history of the church witnessed and signed their names to this deed, which remains in the possession of the present Trustee Board. These men were: Messieurs Jerry Roberts, William House and John Elder.

The charter members consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Elder, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sanders, Mr. & Mrs. Logan Enloe, Mr. & Mrs. Adolphus Rice, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Robers, Mr. & Mrs. William Lockett, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Houston and Rev. and Mrs. B.F. Martin.

As years passed, the second meeting house to be erected was later destroyed by a wind storm; consequently, it was necessary to rebuild. This time, although the structure was small, it was more substantial than the previous ones.

Because of additional members during the years 1901 and 1902, when the late Rev. H. Blake came to serve the church as pastor, there was a great need for expansion. Soon after his arrival, he instituted a remodeling program which supplied more space. When the program was finished the first corner stone which reads "Rev. H. Blake 8 mos. 1901-1902" was laid.

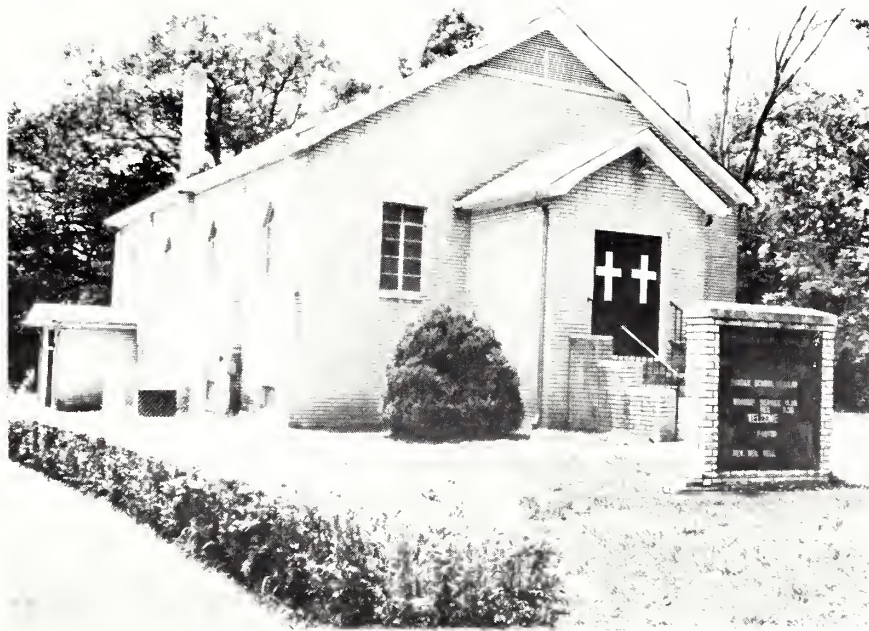
When the late Rev. J.D. Moose came as the new pastor in 1922 he observed the urgent necessity of a new church and immediately launched a drive. Soon the old building was demolished and a larger and more beautiful one was erected.

Later a parsonage was added.

You have done church work know that it is never finished. There is always something to be done, and something to replace. The church has undergone a great face-lifting, beginning with the parsonage and renovation of the fellowship hall and several auxiliary rooms of the church.

All of these accomplishments have been realized through the visions, the hard planning, and diligent labor of these good men that God has sent to lead us:

Dr. B.F. Martin	Rev. E.L. Campbell	Rev. A.S. Cottingham	Rev. S.T. Hawkings
Rev. J.J. Nicholson	Rev. H. Blake	Rev. H.W. Richardson	Rev. G.E. Murdock
Rev. H.P. Lankford	Rev. R. Mitchell	Rev. A.C. Cook	Rev. J.W. Hill
Rev. W.M. Witherspoon	Rev. T.C. McDougall	Rev. E.H. Daniels	Rev. J.A. Belton
Rev. J.D. Moose	Rev. F.T. Roberts	Rev. G.H. Hairston	Rev. L.C. Siler
Rev. J.A. Belton	Rev. A.C. Hunnicutt	Rev. L. Evans	Rev. S. Lewis
Rev. H.L. Hall	Rev. Robert L. Perry, Present Pastor		



HUMPHREY'S CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

**West Main Street
Dallas, N.C. 28034**

Prior to the year 1880 several families came together and began worship services in various homes. In October, 1880, the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Humphrey felt the need for a permanent site for a church. They deeded the present land to the charter members of this organized group. As a result the members decided to name the mission group Humphrey's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Little is known about the early years of the church but a small building was erected at the back of the lot near the big oak tree. Regular services were conducted twice a month. In 1950 Humphrey's Chapel and Shiloh were circuit churches and were pastored by a Rev. Johnson. He preached at Humphrey's Chapel on the first and third Sundays. In 1951 the old church was torn down and the foundation for a new church was laid. In 1957 work was begun on the sanctuary and was completed in the 1960s. Our present pastor is Rev. Cornelious Bell. With the help of God, we will continue to work for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom here at Humphrey's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.



VESTIBULE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

County Road 2248

Kings Mountain, North Carolina

In the latter part of 1866, some three and one-half years after Emancipation, a group of Negroes began talking about a church of their own where they could sing, preach, and pray as they desired.

In 1867, the exact month and date are not known, the white people gave some land and a building to the Negroes for a place of worship.

The Negroes gradually left the white churches and began to worship in the building known as the Washington Baptist Church. In the beginning it was also called a Congregational Church.

Brother George Roberts along with some others and father of the late Rev. John W. Roberts, who was A.M.E. Zion by denomination, work with the congregational church. There was a discussion as to whether the church should be Methodist or Baptist. Votes were cast and Baptist won. As a result of the split, Vestibule A.M.E. Zion Church was founded.

The Methodist disciples decided to establish their church on the east side of Buffalo Creek. The church was named Vestibule in as much as it was an entrance into a new place of religious life and also as it was opening the door to black Methodists in this vicinity. The chief character and first pastor of this black church was the Sainted Caleb Roberts.

Among the pioneers who founded this Vestibule Congregation were the Caleb Roberts family, the George Roberts Family, Peter Forney, Gilbert Ware, John Hinton, the Berry Webber family and others.

It was during the late 1880's when Camp meetings and Brush Arbors were highly valued by slaves that a Rev. Mr. Bynum conceived the idea of a religious meeting place in the southern part of historical Kings Mountain. Because of his pastorate at Vestibule A.M.E. Zion Church, Old Bynum Chapel became Vestibule's offspring.

Subsequent to Vestibule's first generation persons and families have made contributions to Vestibule. Among those are: the Moores, McClain, Hendrixs, Twittys, Bess, Henry Gordon's, Levi Gordon's, Will Gordon's, George Bailey and other faithful servants of the Lord.

The Rev. Walter L. Adams is the present pastor.



TRINITY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Gastonia, N.C. 28052

Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church was first organized around 1870 in the Crowders Creek Community. Its membership was composed of black and white. In 1876 the white members organized their own church, leaving the black members with no place to worship. During this period services were held in a Brush Arbor and later in a school house. Our first pastor was Rev. Samuel Alexander and the first Presiding Elder was Rev. Harris. Brothers Berry Love, Ruben Gladden, Nelson Quinn and E. Green Holland were Trustees, Stewards, and Class Leaders.

In 1876 a new church was erected on property purchased from Mrs. Grace Falls and Edward Ned Holland, Sr. Mr. Edward Holland also gave one acre of land to the church. Trustees responsible for the purchase and whose names appear on the deed are E. Green Holland, Landis Hill, and Edward Ned Holland.

In 1963 under the leadership of Rev. T.M. Powe, a new church was erected. Pastors who served Trinity are Rev. Froneberger, Rev. Smith, Rev. McCoy, Rev. Pagon, Rev. Herndon, Rev. Campbell, Rev. Arnold, Rev. Wheeler, Rev. Coefield, Rev. Jones, Rev. A.D. Seagle, Rev. E.L. Goode, Rev. P.B. Falls, Rev. B.A. Crawford, Rev. H.A. Keaton, Rev. John Wesley, Rev. Ingram, Rev. Davis, Rev. Armstrong, Rev. Ford, Rev. E.C. Kennedy, Rev. A.W. Williams, Rev. T.M. Powe, Rev. J.H. Finkley, Dr. Frank R. Brown, Rev. R.O. Davis.

We are now under the dynamic leadership of Rev. Frank W. Davis, Jr.



CHURCH HISTORY LINKS CHAPEL

Up until and during 1868, the ex-slaves in the Western Ironton and Dallas townships attended the Will Link's log cabin home as their church.

The tiny church served the plantations at Old Plank Road between Macpelah and Hardin in Gaston County. Included in this area were the Link, Forney, Friday, Barlett, Smith Derr, and Brevard families.

The church was officially organized around 1869, but the church building wasn't erected until 1878. At this time, the church included the Shipp, Derr, Link, Johnson, Forney, Brevard and Fullwilder families. Between 1878 - 1889, the church experienced great leadership under Reverend Robert Fennison. During the 1890's, Old Link's Chapel membership started to decline because of migration of its members to other areas.

In 1898, the remaining church members relocated and build Link's Chapel on the Old Plank Road.

In 1902, land was purchased from Wilson and Jennie Watts by Trustee Miles Foster, ^{Wellington} William Lomax, and Patsy Link.

Another tract of land was bought from Freddy and Frances Watts by Trustees Roy Young, John Alexander, Maceo Anthony, Sr., Tom Lomax, and Oley Alexander in November, 1960. ~~At this location, two churches were erected.~~ ^{The Cemetery was purchased}

The present Link's Chapel Church was erected in 1969-70 on land donated by the Lomax family. This land from which this present plot of land on which this church stands was bought by Bishop T.M. Lomax and given to his son, Wellington and his wife, Fannie and children. Reverend Charles A. Pettice served as its pastor until declining health forced his retirement.

Our present church family is guided by Reverend John E. Coulter, Reverend Coulter came to Link's Chapel in July, 1980.



BYNUM CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH 1880 - 1982

In the late 1880's Camp meetings and brush arbors were highly valued by former slaves as religious meeting places. It was in a brush arbor that Bynum Chapel had it's umble beginning.

Rev. Mr. Bynum who was then pastor of Vestibule A.M.E. Zion Church, located in Western Kings Mountain, had a burning desire to continue to spread Methodism throughout the Kings Mountain area. He conceived the idea of a religious meeting place in Southern Kings Mountain thus Bynum Chapel was born. Rev. Bynum chose a brush arbor located on what is now Cherokee Street in Kings Mountain. A frame building was erected in this brush arbor by Rev. Bynum and his followers in late 1880. This building was destroyed by fire and a new church was erected and dedicated under the leadership of Rev. A.L. Martin, May 20, 1899. Bynum Chapel continued to grow at this location under the leadership of such pastors as Rev. A.L. Martin, Rev. Cooper, Rev. Spurgeon, Rev. John Wesley, Rev. S.T. Cooke, Rev. Cochran, Rev. Hamilton, Rev. McWalten and Rev. Reid White.

Bynum Chapel also had strong lay leadership from such men as Mr. Roy Brown, Hillard Hunter, Andrew Wilson, John J. Jackson, Raleigh Brown, John Setzer, Will Brown, George Patterson, John Berry and Freeman Dooley. These men served as Trustees and Stewards in Old Bynum Chapel. Mr. Roy Brown served as Chairman of the Trustee Board for over 40 years, 1932 - 72.

Bynum Chapel was not only concerned with the spiritual life in the community but also the educational life. It was Bynum Chapel that organized the first school for blacks in the Kings Mountain area. This school eventually became known as Davison.

The membership had a desire for a more central location. Under the leadership of Rev. Reid White, land was purchased on the corner of Canseler and Ellis Streets in early 1950. A new church was built and the first service was held September 1954. Rev. White never preached in the new church because of re-assignment. Rev. Frank Jones held the first service and served for two years, 1954-56.

The first trustees of New Bynum Chapel were Roy Brown, Chairman, J.A. Gibson, John Jackson, John Leach, James Adams, Hillard Hunter and Rev. Reid White.

Rev. William J. Campbell (1956-72) completed the building of New Bynum Chapel and a dedicating service was held with the laying of the cornestone. Rev. Campbell left the church debt free and retired July 1972. Rev. Campbell served 16 years.

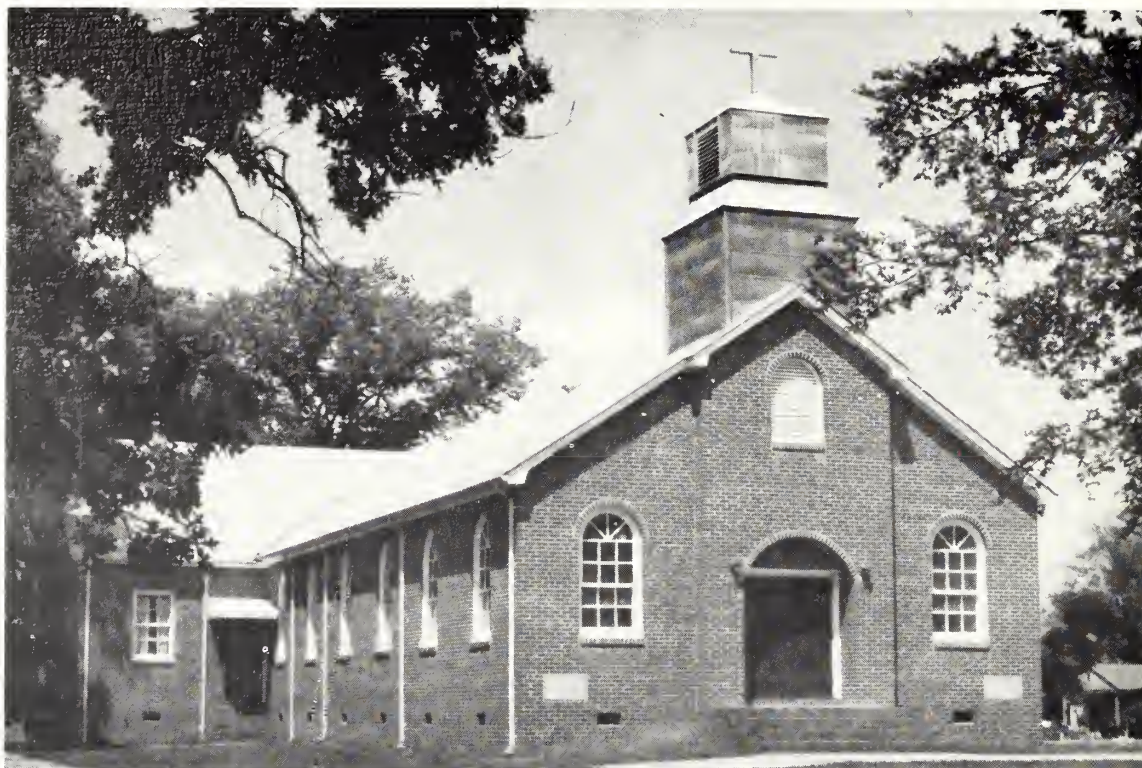
Rev. William Scott (1972-79) continued improvements with a new organ and heating system. On May 28, 1972 a mortgage burning service was held in honor of Rev. W.J. Campbell.

Rev. John Holmes (1974-76) gave New Bynum Chapel a new look. New furniture and air conditioning was a part of the remodeling of the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Holmes also help organize the first Youth Lay Council in the history of the A.M.E. Zion Church. It was organized in New Bynum Chapel by Mr. William Orr and Rev. Holmes.

Rev. S.T. Cooke (1977-81) returned to Bynum Chapel in 1977 having pastored in Old Bynum Chāpel 1941-45. Under Rev. Cooke's administration the church grew in membership, additional land was purchased and a new piano. Rev. Cooke donated to the church a public address sytem. Rev. Cooke is the only pastor to have the honor of pastoring in both churches. Rev. Cooke retired July 1981.

Rev. Victor Carson (1981-) received his appointment to New Bynum Chapel to continue to lead it's members to great heights. Bynum Chapel under his leadership has purchased a parsonage to expand it's holdings. The present Trustees for 1982 are: James Adams, Chairman - William Orr, Nina Mitchem, Benjamin Brown Sr., James Rice, William H. Hager, and Gaiter Mast.

With the Lord's help Bynum Chapel will continue to have a rich history.



NEELY'S GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH FOUNDED 1876

Trustees, E.A. Suggs, John Reid, Miles Suggs, W.M. Johnson, Miles ruthledge
Church burned April 13, 1941, rebuilt same year, finished September 20, 1941.

Trustees: L.C. Reid, C.B. Farris, J.P. Leeper Sr., S.E. Sloan, Belvie Jackson Sr., J.H. Blake, F.D. Barnett.
The church was destroyed by fire again in April 1958, rebuilt and finished in August, 1958.

Trustees: S.E. Sloan, F.D. Barnette, J.P. Leeper, J.H. Blake, L.M. Jackson, C.L. Adams, Miles Jackson, Sr., M.A. Johnson, L.F. Crawford, Peter Ramseur.

Names of present Trustees: C.L. Adams, Miles Jackson, Sr., W.C. Johnson, M.L. Jackson, Bobby Hart, Miles Jackson, Jr., William Patterson.

Ministers that served at Neely's Grove are as follows:

Reverends: John Travis, W.A. Wheeler, H.A. Keaton, E.W. Stewart, T.P. Turner, D.D. Moore, D.L. Conyers, I.L. Houston, B.A. Crawford, E.L. Goode, F.J. Vorce, S.I. Clement, M.L. Campbell, S.T. Cooke, J.W. Holmes, G.L. Godfrey and H.L. Hall.

Presiding Elders that have served:

Reverends: S.M. Hamilton, J.R. Glenn, A.D. Seagle, W.D. Carson, I.L. Houston, J.D. GLadden, F.R. Blakey and S.I. Clement.



WRIGHTS CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
LOWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

Was built July 8, 1908 and rebuilt in 1923. Wrights Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church is a striving church with a bright future.

We look forward to many years of christian service. We are working in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and hope to leave a history of a job well done.

Rev. G.H. Washington, Sr. is our Pastor.



ST. TITUS A.M.E. ZION CHURCH (Summary from Historical Outline)

In August 1968, several members of an interdenominational Bible Study group bought a house at 412 Queens Road, South Gastonia, North Carolina. The building was to be used for holding various Christian worship services. The mission took its name, Queens Road Mission, from the location of the structure.

Some of the early participants included A.M.E. Zion ministers Rev. S.I. Clement, presiding elder of the Lincolnton District, Rev. Robert O. Davis and Rev. Walter L. Adams; Mrs. Walter Adams (Violet); Mr. Willie Good and Mrs. Willie Good (Martha); Reverend Geneva Lomick, Bessie Patterson, and Alice Johnson, members of the Wesley Chapel AMEZ Church, Bessemer City, N.C. Mr. and Mrs. Willie Good were members of the Gold Hill Baptist Church, S.C.

A fruitful bus ministry was part of the mission's activity.

In 1973 the members purchased a lot on Shannon-Bradley Road in West Gastonia for the purpose of building a house of worship. The land was deeded to the A.M.E. Zion Church. At this time, St. Titus A.M.E. Zion Church was chosen to replace the name Queens Road Mission, and to represent the two properties owned by the group. At the Eighty-fourth Session of the Western North Carolina Conference Annual Conference of the AMEZ Church, St. Titus became a member of the A.M.E. Zion Church on August 16, 1974.

SUMMARY

Rev. R.O. Davis was given the first pastoral appointment to St. Titus, followed by Revs. Pruella B. Kilgore, Paul Stanton Hoggard, and the current pastor Edward R. Duren. (Rev. Kilgore served actively as preacher the first two years, 1974-1976).

The first members were: Mr. Willie Good, Christopher Diggs, Goldie Diggs, Martha Good, Bessie Patterson, Alice Johnson.

Six members of the Mission have been called to the preaching ministry, and five of them, along with other local ministers had the opportunity to exercise their calling regularly at St. Titus, allowing Rev. Davis to fulfill his pastoral duties at the Vestibule and Trinity churches.

St. Titus moved from the Queens Road address to its present quarters on Route 6, Shannon-Bradley Road, in January 1978. The church acquired these facilities in December 1977.

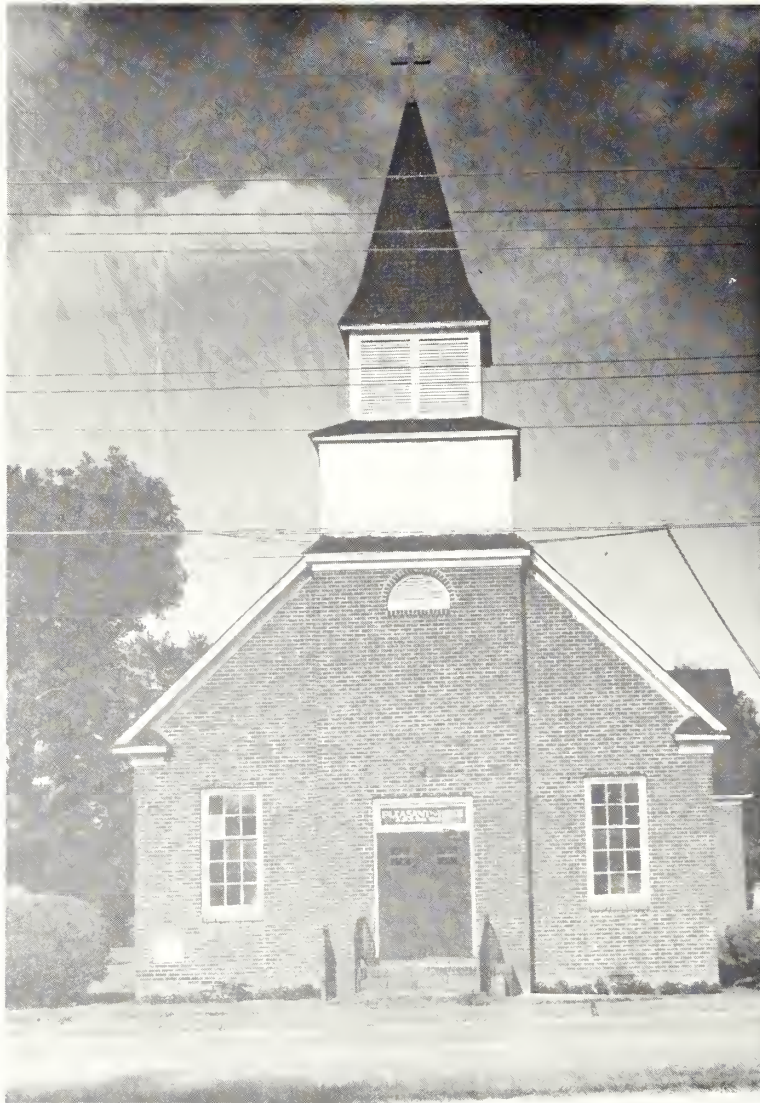
A highlight of 1982 was a May 9th visit by the Right Reverend James Clinton Hoggard, presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal Area AMEZ Church, and Mrs. Eva Stanton Hoggard, Missionary Supervisor. Bishop Hoggard delivered the Mother's Day sermon; Mrs. Hoggard served as pianist during the Sunday morning worship.



ST. PETERS TABERNACLE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
NORTH YORK STREET AT DAVIDSON
GASTONIA, N.C. 28052

It was in the year of 1908 that a group of devout men and women felt the need for another church in the community. They withdrew from St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church and organized St. Peters A.M.E. Zion Church. Services were held in a small building on Davidson Avenue near York Street. The first form of worship was that of a Holiness Church. William Lockhart served as the pastor. After the first year they joined the Western North Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The Reverend Joshua Pagan was the first pastor to be appointed by the conference. The services were well attended by people of other denominations and soon many new members were added. The property that we presently occupy was purchased at a reasonable price. It was mass of solid rocks, and it was several years before they could build our present structure. The church was designed from plans of one in Salisbury, N.C. It was completed in 1929. When the necessity of a parsonage was realized, the property adjacent to the church was purchased. After the parsonage was built and furnished the dining hall was completed and other repairs made. Later a new fence was installed around the parsonage, the driveway paved and a house and property on Davidson Street was purchased. Other improvements have also been made such as air conditioning, an intercom system installed, the dining hall and pastors study, completely remodeled and stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary. Today our membership and attendance has increased and by the help of God we are pressing on to higher heights.

Our present pastor is the Reverend Dr. Bennett S. Lane.



PLEASANT RIDGE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

**908 Spencer Avenue
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052**

Gaston county court records show land for our church was bought in 1876. The first building was a one room log cabin which was used both as a church and school. The name "Pleasant Ridge" came from the beautiful scenery and ridged topography of the land. The first pastor was Rev. Edmon Davis. In 1915 our second church was erected. The need for a parsonage was realized in 1919. It was erected and dedicated in 1920. It was named "The Floyd-Woodford Manse" in honor of Mrs. Mary F. Floyd and Mrs. Callie Woodford who were very instrumental in leading two fund-raising efforts. Our present structure was built in 1957. We have had thirty-seven pastors including our present leader, Rev. Larry Crossland.

YOUNGS CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH MOORESBORO, N.C.

Located approximately ten miles west of Shelby on business highway 74 in Cleveland County, Youngs Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church was first organized in 1895 by J.C.L. Logan. Land for the first church was given by Mr. John Logan.

In 1893 the cornerstone was laid at the first Youngs Chapel Church by Logan and his Friendship Masonic Lodge. Rev. J.R. Gleen was the pastor and trustees were: J.C.L. Logan, W.L. Dogget and S.W. Smith.

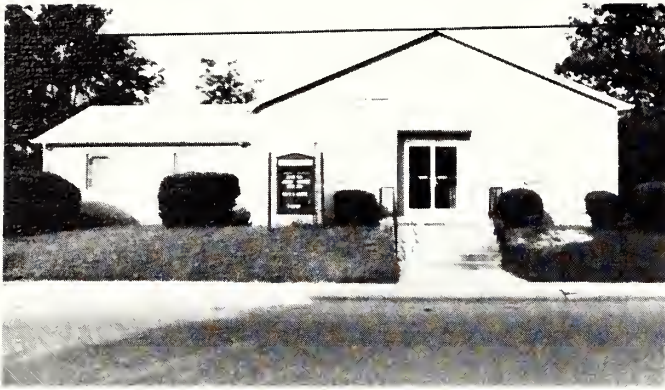
In 1908, Orange Logan Allison became a trustee and served in this capacity until she deceased (1972).

In 1932 a new church was erected. Presiding Elder Gleen held a church meeting and burned the old church roll. A motion was made and seconded that Orange Logan Allison be the only member to remain on the roster. The invitation to a christian discipleship was extended and a new roll for the church began. Rev. P.B. Falls was Pastor, Rev. J.R. Gleen, Presiding Elder and Orange Logan Allison, Secretary.

The church burned in 1953. The third church was erected on its present site in 1953-54.

Many dedicated Bishops, Elders, Ministers and Officials of the church have given their time and services to make Youngs Chapel a church to be proud of.

Our present Bishop is The Rt. Rev. Wm. Milton Smith, our Presiding Elder Rev. S.I. Clement, Chairman of Trustees, E.H. Freeman, Pastor Rev. John W. Holmes.



HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RUDISILL CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

According to the most reliable sources we have found, the first Rudisill Chapel Church was completed about 1896.

The story behind this accomplishment is a very interesting one. A few men and women of the community wanted a church and so, they banded themselves together for this purpose with Calvin Rudisill being the motivating spirit behind this effort. Those who composed this little band were: Calvin Rudisill, Rufus Rudisill, Jerry Summitt, Laura Summitt Ingram and Robert Young. The building of the church, however, was not without discouragement and difficulties.

With the completion of the church building, an organization was set up. The membership was so small that the men elected "officers" attended to all of the business of the church. Calvin Rudisill was the first class leader and needless to say, he had all the members in his class. As the membership increased, other class leaders were needed. Wash Anderson and John Jackson became the next two leaders. Others of the early members coming into the church were: C.L. Garland, Mary Patterson, Bertha Black and Sarah Garland.

In the meantime, the large group of young people in the community made it possible to organize a Sunday School in the church. To Mrs. Laura Summit Ingram went the honor of being elected the first Sunday School teacher. Some of the young people in the early group were: Cora Watts, Anna Watts, Mamie Watts, Callie Sutzer, Emma Cobb Bess and others.

The first cornerstone was laid A.D. 1901 by Rev. J.J. Hunter. From this time on the church was served by regular ministers and it enjoyed rapid growth. In fact, the church grew to such proportions that in 1918 it was necessary to add a wing to the existing structure. A second cornerstone was then laid July 26, 1918 by the Rev. M.B. Barnett. About 20 years later, the building began to deteriorate very fast. With the leadership of Claude Dixon, Sr. Walter Bess, J.W. Little, Floyd Byers, P.S. Anderson and others a new edifice was built under the administration of Rev. G.M. Lipsey with improvements made by Rev. L.C. Thomas and Rev. J.W. Powell.

The church will never forget the late Willie J. Little who was able to get the late Ben Rudisill to donate a four room house for a parsonage. Money was raised to have the house moved to the lot purchased for a parsonage and three rooms were added.

In 1964 under the leadership of Rev. E.E. Little, a new edifice was erected by the members after discovering a large crack in the cement block building. Ten years later, the remaining debt on the church was over \$9,000.00. Under the leadership of Rev. Victor L. Carson, an eight week drive was organized to liquidate the debt. On December 22, 1973, we gave thanks to God for the culmination of this drive on schedule time.

Recently we have made great improvement in our church and we are still in the process of more improvements. It is very hard to give full history of our church when we realize that space is limited in this publication. We are small in numbers but very large in the spirit of cooperation when we set a goal to reach.

We cannot end this history without giving thanks to the ministers who made our success possible. In the line of great ministers who have helped to make Rudisill Chapel what it is today are: Reverends J.J. Hunter, H.T. Medford, --- Carpenter, --- Floyd, --- Barnes, Dan Thompson, --- Shuford, Moton Rhinehart, Alex Rhinehart, J.P. Sloan, George Dixon, M.B. Barnett, A.W. Williams, G.M. Lipsey, O.L. Glover, L.C. Thomas, Kyle Watkins, W.J. Powell, --- Strong, David Pharr, S.T. Cooke, E.E. Goode, W.J. Neal, E.R. Brown, E.E. Little, Charles Ford, J.D. Armstrong, John Davis, John Wesley, --- Vickers, Victor L. Carson, J.Q. McMillian, and W.F. Mason who is serving us at the present time.



HISTORY OF THE UNITY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The Unity A.M.E. Zion Church on Crowders Creek Road began in the late 1870's under a brush arbor. Brother Eli Holland who was a layman and founder of the church, served as the first pastor for the congregation.

The land was purchased from the Currence and Brown families to build the first church in 1888. Services were held in this structure until 1924, when the present building was erected. This building was remodeled in 1964 under the leadership of Rev. T.M. Powe and dedicated by Bishop W.J. Walls. The church was later remodeled in 1976 under the leadership of Rev. G.H. Washington Sr., at this time a Fellowship Hall was added.

Unity became a station church in 1973.

MINISTERS WHO SERVED

Rev. Cofield
Rev. E.L. Good
Rev. P.B. Falls
Rev. Davis
Rev. H.A. Keaton
Rev. Armstrong

Rev. Ford
Rev. A.D. Segal
Rev. B.A. Crawford
Rev. Ingram
Rev. John Wesley

Rev. Jones
Rev. A.W. Williams
Rev. J.H. Finkley
Rev. G.H. Washington, Sr.
Rev. F.T. Barnett
Rev. E.C. Kennedy
Rev. T.M. Powe
Rev. David Sherrill
Rev. John W. Holmes
Rev. J.T. Ross



ADAMS CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Around the middle part of the eighteen hundreds Mr. Adam Jackson, Mrs. Viney Hogue and Mrs. Betty Whistnant saw the need for a place to worship God in the beauty of holiness. With little or no money, the Mauney's gave a piece of land for this cause. This was our first structure. It later years there was the need for another structure. This one served the purpose well. Another one was planned under the pastorage of Rev. L.B. Falls, built Nov. 18, 1944. Also Rev. L.C. Johnson contributed. Finished under the pastorate of Rev. S.I. Clement. Later this same building was remolded while Rev. R.O. Davis was pastor. While Rev. M.L. Campbell was pastor he drew up plans for an education building. This building was finished under our present pastor, Rev. P.B. Kilgore. Under this administration, the church has purchased furniture and finished the kitchen. In the near future other things will be in the making.

The membership has grown. In 1982 alone, seventeen members were added to the church. We are now beginning a new conference year under the administration of Rev. Kilgore. We expect to make great progress in the conference year of 1982-1983.



NEW SHILOH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH MT. HOLLY, N.C.

In the year 1912, there was a man by the name of Mr. Mack Dinkins, who was very much church minded and living among church minded people, he was asked to discover a church site so they could have a church in which to worship the Lord.

The landsight was not far from the present site. Finding out that there had been a church on the spot, Mr. Dinkins questioned the type of church that had been there, and a man by the name of Mr. Jerry Tate said it was a Methodist Church.

Mr. Tate, after being questioned about the holder of the deed to the property, said a lady by the name of Ms. Mathealia Grice was the holder of the deed. So search got underway to find Ms. Grice and when she was found the decision was made to start having church again.

The name of the church was to be Mack's Chapel, but this name couldn't be used because there was another church using the same name. So after a brief discussion, Shiloh was decided upon. Thus Rev. Jonas Gordon became the first pastor of the church. At the time George W. Clinton was our Bishop.

The congregation used for a meeting place the County School in the winter until 1914, and in the summer they has a brush-harbor. Between 1914 and 1916 a church was hulled in, that is it was framed and covered. Rev. Mack Barnett became the second pastor of the church, under the next Bishop, Linwood W. Kyles.

He, Rev. Barnett, remained for a short period until conference time. He didn't return after converence. With his own hands and labor, he and the members began finishing the church on the inside. Rev. Barnett was succeeded by Rev. L. Pharr, Rev. Armstrong, Rev. Moat Rhinehrdt, Rev. Henry and Rev. Davidson.

The second church was built in 1938 under the leadership of Rev. Barber, at which time W. J. Walls ws Bishop. Rev. Barber was succeeded by Rev. Johnson, Rev. Hamilton, Rev. Kennedy, and Rev. Mac Walton.

The structure for a new church site was built in 1967 under the leadership of Rev. Hoseph McMillian following Annual Conference; at which time R.L. Jones ws our Bishop.

The new church was dedicated under the leadership of Rev. Walter Adams, who served with us four years. Rev. Adams was moved in the middle of the Conference year of 1975 and was succeeded by Rev. Wayne C. Harris who worked with us a little over four years. During his administration, plans were made for the finishing of the Fellowship Hall, and other work that needed to be done toward the finishing fo the new Annex.

In 1979, after conference in July, Bishop Smith sent to us Rev. R.C. Jones, who is a very talented minister, who likes to do things and see things being done.

We realize the race is not to the swift nor the strong, but to them that endureth to the end, so we will continue to run on and see what the end will be.



DOGGETTS GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
SANDY MUSH, FOREST CITY, N.C. 28043

Just out of slavery with no church of their own in which to worship God, a little band of believing christians held their worship service in the Butler School house. "Uncle" Sam Doggett gave some land on which to build a church in the year 1865. It was built of logs and named for the man who gave the land. The first little log church was named Doggetts Grove A.M.E. Zion Church.

The first preacher was Rev. Bill McIntire. Some of the founders were: Bro. Sam Doggett, Bro. Joe McIntire, Bro. Sam Goode, Bro. Spence Moseley, Bro. Bob McEntire, Bro. George McEntire, Bro. Joshua Ford, and Bro. Sam Mince.

Our present pastor is Rev. Ben R. Byers.



**ZION HILL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
HENRIETTA, N.C.**

Was organized August 31, 1912 by Bishop George W. Clinton and P.E. Elder Blake. The pastor of the church was the Rev. W.H. Gilmore at that time. Our present pastor is the Rev. M.C. Walton.



HERNDON'S CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
Lincolnton, North Carolina

Herndon's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church of Lincolnton, N.C. was erected in the year 1896 by the members of the community of Georgetown. The land on which the church was built, was donated by the late Sully and ~~Amanda~~ Josephine Herndon.

Herndon's Chapel was once a circuit church associated with other churches in the Dallas, Cherryville and Lincolnton areas. It became a station church in the 1950's.

The church was rebuilt in 1961 with Rev. Willie McDaniel as Pastor. Later a fellowship hall was added in 1973, Rev. Benjamin Byer, pastor.

Herndon's Chapel is now being pastored by Rev. Matthew T. Davis of Hickory, N.C.



OAK GROVE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH 1931 - 19 -

Oak Grove A.M.E. Zion Church had its humble beginning in 1931 in a log cabin, five miles west of Cherryville, North Carolina. A group of farmers held prayer meetings once a week. Later, under the leadership of Rev. J.R. McCullough and Rev. Barber, they decided to hold Sunday School and Worship services there.

In 1932 land across the road, in a grove of oak trees, was given to the church. The Trustees hired a building contractor by the name of Lewis Carr who built the church out of donated materials. Upon completion the church was then named Oak Grove. The Trustees were Pat Thompson, William Curry, Joseph Patterson and Joseph Stover.

In 1933 under the leadership of Rev. Lisper, the membership grew. Rev. Lisper remained there for a period of 7 years. Other pastors to follow were Revs. Authur Williams, Crawford, Meeks, P.B. Falls, Bouie and A.L. Jackson. In the winter of 1959, the church was destroyed by an ice storm. Rev. Dawkins was the pastor at that time. Services were then moved to the little building which had been constructed for selling and preparing food during Camp Meetings, which were held during the month of September.

In the spring of 1960, under the leadership of Rev. Joseph McMillian, the new church was erected. Rev. McMillian served for 3 years. Elder S.I. Clement pastored until the Annual Conference sent us Rev. D. Sherrill who served for 1 year. Rev. F.D. Barnett succeeded Rev. Sherrill and served 4 years, followed by Rev. J.T. Ross who was with us 8 years.

Under the leadership of Rev. Ross, we have been able to put new flooring in the church, new pulpit furniture, new pews, carpeting, a well, hot water heater, water fountain and 2 rest rooms. The membership today is 51.

THE HISTORY OF RHYNES TABERNACLE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The first church was located on Virginia Avenue in Bessemer City, N.C., and was pastored by the Rev. Valls. After the church was destroyed by fire, leaving nothing, the members kept the faith and continued to hold services in a nearby store house for a period of two years. A nearby plot of land was purchased where the next church was constructed in 1946. This land was located on west Louisiana Avenue in Bessemer City, N.C. Unfortunately the church was a second time destroyed by fire and a temporary church was constructed in which services were held for about three years. The church was rebuilt in 1957 under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. M.L. Campbell, who pastored there for the next three years. The Rev. Montgomery was called as pastor, and under his leadership our church was admitted to the Annual Conference in the mid 1960s.

The following pastors served after admittance into the Annual Conference: Revs. Williams, 3 years, Evans, 2 years; Ola Cassell, 4 years; Neil Bell, 2 years; Robert Hoyle, 6 months; J.R. Torrence, died while pastoring.

Our present pastor is Rev. Thomas Jackson.



HISTORY OF WARDELL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, that set slaves free had not long been signed into law when there emerged a small group of independent children of God who united to establish a church and were formally called the Methodists.

As an outgrowth of activities within this group who remained loyal to the Methodist came the purchasing of land from S.L. Gillespie and wife V.E. Gillespie signed and sealed on the 31st day of Dec., 1884. Priced at \$75.00.

A little white church was organized and established on or near this same location by the hands of ex-slaves and free-men who dedicated their meager talents under the leadership of Rev. Wardell for whom this church was named.

Trustees of the church in the year of 1884 who signed the property deeds were: Wade Jones, Walker McGill, Scott Hunter, Charlie Millier, Berry Butchet (great grandfather of Florence Camp) Jessey Cookeson (the father of the late Adam Cookeson), Charlie Miller, William Simmons, J.W. McNeal, J.C. Roberts, George Birchett and Perry Roberts (father of Louise Roberts and grandfather of Ramona McDaniels). These names were taken from the deeds of the church.

A few of the ministers that pastored Wardell from 1885 to 1916 were Reverends: Simmons, Ivey, Vincent, Taylor and Williams.

On the 27th day of December 1904 one house and land was purchased from Mioe W. Tiddy (we do not know if this shouse became the parsonage or not but we do know that a parsonage stood in about the same spot as the house purchased).

Our records show that in the year of 1917 the Rt. Rev. George W. Clinton, D.D. was Bishop of the 2nd Episcopal Distruct, Rev. W.B. Wilson was pastor of Wardell A.M.E. Zion Church and Rev. H. Blake, Presiding Elder (grandfather of Warren Foster).

In the year of 1918 the bishop appointed Rev. Haywood Alexander Keaton, a dynamic young minister to the pastorate of our church. (Mrs. S.A. Keaton, Wille Lee, Cora K. Green, Glenn Keaton, wife, daughters and son respectfully are still active members.) He completed courses through private tutors from Howard University and Chicago University (later a Doctor of Divinity from Livingstone College.)

He found only 52 members at Wardell, a debt of \$2,400 and a church ready to fall down. A financial drive was immediately begun. Alfield Hoskins, Sr., Chairman of Trustee board at the time, (father of James, Alfield Hoskins Jr. and Marilyn Cabiness), Alexanda and Wade Pratt and John Byers (brick layers), Arther Easter, and D. McCurry, (plasters), mothers, fathers, boys and girls carried bricks by lights strung on poles because these pioneers worked after their regular working hours. The New Wardell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church was completed in 1923. The cost of the church was \$20,000 of this amount Rev. Keaton paid \$15,000, increased membership to 337 and 300 converts. Rev. Keaton remained to pastor this church two more years leaving in 1925. (This information was taken from notes written by H.A. Keaton.)

Other faithful missionaries, etc. were Iana Pratt, Mammie Easter, Bertha Bridges, (mother of Ezra Bridges), Lizzie Love (mother of Bessie Love, grandmother of Til and Joyce Love, Margaret Howell), Ella F. Jones, (mother of Libby B. Gibson), Cammilla Hunter (aunt of the Hoskins), Mary Roberts, Fannie Eskridge, Mary Logan (grandmother of Leonia Bean and Elsie Logan), Molly Birchett, Sarah Gaston, Jenny Connelly, (mother of Florence Camp), Lilly Guest (mother of Tony Guest and Gertrude Brown), Katie Hunter, Nora Pratt, Regina Jennings, (mother of Missouri London), Beulah Hoey Smith, (sister of Willie H. Wallace), Georgia Deberry, Cora Dixon, Alice Austell, Delia Graham, Addie Hamrick, (mother of Magie Gilliam, Mammie Hamrick), and Mary Carouthers (mother of Margaret London, William and Talmadge Carouthers), Edna Thompson, (mother of Mildred and Janie Thompson) and many others.

We have no records of all the ministers who followed the late Rev. Keaton. To list a few, J.W. Hill who later became P.E. of Asheville and Statesville Districts, (also the father of Rosetta Hill, Donnah H. Wells and Elizabeth H. Webb of this church), Rev. T.P. Turner, Rev. J.J. Wells, (late husband of Mrs. Donnah H. Wells and father of Betty Jo W. Pettis,) Rev. Brooks, Jones, Carr, Moore and others (not in order of pastorship).

In 1929 the Rev. H.A. Keaton was again appointed to pastor the church he built. Later he was appointed P.E. of Asheville District.

Later pastors not in order include Reverends: Ward, Watkins, Walker, Wade, T.X. Graham, M. Williams, G. Leake, who renovated the church; and later became Bishop of Eleventh Episcopal, District, and S. Turner.

Between the years of 1885 and 1975 Presiding Elders that contributed to our March of Zion are: H. Blakey, Hamilton, Houston, Carson, Seagle, Blakely, Gladden and our present one Rev. S.I. Clement, of the Lincolnton District.

In 1965 members of Wardell Chapel were close to despair. But then came the young, vivacious and energetic Richard J. Harris, Jr. to take the helm and direct the future course. Within seven years, 1965-1972, under his leadership, this beautiful structure, so well designed, was completed at a cost of \$120,000 but we value the plant, contents and ground at \$150,000, the membership has increased, he organized the Round Table (a better articulation of the church family) increased the trustee board and class leaders, and more recently organized the Richard J. Harris Choral Ensemble. Rev. R.J. Harris is a graduate of Morningside High School, Statesville, N.C., B.S. Degree Livingstone, Salisbury, N.C., B.D. Degree Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, N.C., attended the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C., Boston University, Boston, Mass., and received M.S. Degree A & T State University, Greensboro, N.C., a member of NAACP, honorary member of National Farmers America, Future Farmers of America and Advisory commission of NDEA, and Board of directors of NCEA. He is married to Nellie M. Massey Harris and they have 3 children. He is an organizer and great church builder; having built Elmwood A.M.E. Zion Church, Elmwood, N.C. and completely remodeled Denny Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Wilkesboro, N.C. and then our Wardell A.M.E. Zion Church.

There is a wonderful feeling within these beautiful walls of Zion. Comfort for the heart, soul and body; spiritually, where we pray for each other. We are sure it was Gods plan within Rev. Harris that guided the structure of this great House of Worship.

The present board of Trustees at Wardell Chapel are:

James Hoskins, Chairman	Fleming Williams	David Banks	Tony Guest
James London	Clarence Palmer	John Winston	Sherwood Enloe
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We acknowledge in solemn memory the late Charles Millsaps (brother of Cleo Murdock). A member of this board at the time of his death whose greatest desire was to see this church a reality.

Our church emerged through struggles, strife, toil, tribulation, and persecution, yet it still stood and will stand for test of time. Thanks to the Almighty for Wardell, yesterday, today and tomorrow. We dedicate ourselves to fuller and greater involvement. We seek guidance and prayerfully look toward years of service to God and Shelby Community.

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